

Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

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out of the City at Six Dollars per ANNUAL. ONE DOLLAR
TWO MONTHS, INEVITABLY ADVANCE, for the period
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To Correspondents.

We desire to call the attention of Correspondents,
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Advertisers, we cannot undertake to return copies of Communications,

unless they are sent to us by express, or by mail.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1864.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY
will be prepared to send a day on TUESDAY
the 2nd inst., from CHAMBERSBURG, with any
expresses that may be sent to the same, for the service
of the day, to the extent of one thousand dollars.

JOHN DUGGAN, Superintendent.

**THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATURE,
AND THE MILITIA LAW.**

The extra session of the Legislature, called
by the Governor, has but one work to do—the
enactment of a law under which the State
militia may be quickly and efficiently orga-
nized. Why this was not done last winter it is
now too late to inquire; but the defective
character of the bill then prepared and
passed, prove most conclusively that the un-
aided intelligence of civilians is not equal to
the task of drafting a law which shall en-
tirely meet the object sought to be attained
in this particular matter.

What Governor CURTIN, or the Legislature,
or both, failed to do nearly a year ago, they
should do now—to wit, call together at Har-
risburg a sufficient number of gentlemen of
approved military knowledge and experience,
to confer and co-operate with the members of
the General Assembly and the Executive,
with respect to the best possible mode of re-
organizing the militia, so as to render it all
the more efficient upon any sudden
emergency, available for the public defense.

This is what is sorely needed—this is what
is urgently demanded by the extremely
critical condition of the times. And that this
exigency shall be surely and satisfactorily
met; that no further mistakes shall be made,
but such legislation be had as will be as nearly
perfect as may be, and require no future
amendment in any material respect, the coun-
sel of judicious military men is an indispens-
able condition.

The present law is admitted to be full of
faults—so full, indeed, that it seems to have
been impossible to put it in operation. This
fact was discovered and declared by several
of our citizens who have been long connected
with our volunteer military organizations;
and it is evident that had they, or persons like
them, been previously consulted upon this
subject, we should have had at the beginning of this year a
sound, working militia law, under which our people owing military duty might
have been enrolled, embodied into companies,
regiments, and brigades, properly drilled and
disciplined, and such portions of the force
kept constantly in the field as would have been
adequate for the defense of the State against
invasion.

The present law, moreover, is egregiously
defective in its provisions, and encumbered with
a mass of verbiage which renders it almost
incomprehensible. There is no reason why a sound, practical
militia bill should not be both brief in its
articles and explicit in expression. Aided
by the advice of experienced military gen-
erals, who know what is really needed, what
is essential, and what is indifferent and super-
fluous, the Legislature will be able to frame
a law which shall embrace in a condensed
form all that the case positively requires, be-
cause put in practice, and completely satis-
factory in operation.

GAMBLING IN STOCKS.

With loud and virtuous indignation the
whole press of our city will record the break-
ing up of a card gambling saloon. But close
by the press, right under its nose, is a gam-
bling hell, where in broad day, and every day,
publicly and before all men, more money is
gambled away in one hour than all the card
gamblers in the city win and lose in a month!

But this game of hazard is protected from denuncia-
tion because the shield of fashion is
over it. Gentry of cloth patronize it, mem-
bers of the Church, and gentlemen of the press also.
The establishment of libraries in our prin-
cipal maritime cities, and the devotion of some
degree of attention to literary pursuits, have
served rather to make the commercial class in
this country conscious of its defects than to
suppy the deficiency. The usual course of
lectures during the winter season is not
much avail, for the reason that the themes are
not chosen with an adaptation to the audience,
and there is an absence of solid fact, for which,
to the practical man, no trope, or figure, or
rounded period can compensate.

The library proper, however, furnishes the
leisure hours of the merchant with the means
of widening his range of information—or rising
above the balance-sheet of the counting-house
to look abroad on the great world, and the
wondrous march of events—the distant lands
with which he has traded without any positive
knowledge of their products, political systems,
grade of civilization, or anything else that
bears upon the commercial pursuits in which
he has engaged, save the simple idea of a cheap
purchase and a dear sale—to study the prob-
able effect and tendency of treaties and other
measures of national policy—to reach down
to the fundamental principles that underlie
the traffic between various countries of
the globe—to note the changes worked by
improvement in the facilities of transportation,
and the exploration of new routes, and new
fields of enterprise.

These objects can be attained through the
careful use of a well-selected library. But
something will still be wanting to give the
merchant due influence among his fellow-
men. Even the most extensive fund of com-
mercial intelligence, and the most wonderful
reach of sagacity, will be but as gold in the
ocean that is never mind, if the possessor has
not a skillful command of the means through
which to impress his resources. He must be
competent to speak or write, as the occasion
calls, with force and clearness, in his native
tongue; while no member of society has more
reason for cultivating an acquaintance with
the languages of other lands.

Here we find a great deficiency of our
mercantile class. How few even of the man
of widest experience and largest information
can come before the community either by let-
ter or word of mouth, when any measure of
importance to our trade is broached, and by
advocating them with a strong array of facts,
set forth in the clearest light, push on the
enterprise to a consummation! We cannot
mention, at this time, more than half-a-dozen
in any city of this Union, and probably
will puzzle us to find so many.

There may be lights hid under a bushel,
but certainly they do not shine before men
either in our public journals or at meetings
to forward commercial interests.

A thorough collegiate education is just as
necessary to the highest style of merchant as
to the lawyer, litterateur, or divine. We
should check this all-pervading tendency to
exalt the so-called "liberal" professions at the
expense of those which are of much re-
spectability and of more influence upon the
affairs of mankind.

The constant study of the former is the
principal reason for man's cultivation pre-
ferring their more honored walks, but the
practice as contrasted of law and conventional
approves the former has the allurement of
fashion and of industrial occupation. The law
does indeed pronounce such gambling debt
irrecoverable. But we amounts to nothing
in practice.

If we were to say what propensity of man
was the most unhappy, we should gaze over
the miserable Esquimes, and pronounce the
stock-gambler the most utterly forsaken of
God. With trembling nerves, with palpitating
heart and throbbing brain, he swings himself
upon his uneasy couch, to dream of the devil
in the stocks. He wakes unrefreshed and
swelling at the compliments of his wife and

his children's innocent pestle. He bolts his
morning meal with a newspaper before his
face, and his bloodshot eye on the stock list.
Then he hurries to the gambling haunts, and puts
his soul in peril of the dice again till
Change hour comes; and with spirit either
over-stimulated by the fatal success of the
day, or sadly subdued by reverse, he hies
homeward—his body to his family, his soul to
the calculation of chances!

What a way to spend the short life vouch-
safed to us! What a mood of mind for a father
to do his duty to his children! What a hard-
ened heart to present to the sweet partner of
his home, whom he has sworn to cherish and
to treat with loving kindness!

We know that the stock-gambler often hag-
gals with himself to quit when he makes
enough, and then go into enjoyment. But he
deceives himself if he counts upon jumping
from a life anxiety into sudden happiness.
The man whose way of life has for years been
a round of joint-stifling toll will find himself
incapable of presently whirling in the
waltz, and gliding down the ball-room in the
graceful dance.

The taste for pleasure requires to be cul-
tivated, or it is soon lost; and of all men, those
whose hearts and souls have been for years
racked by the fever for stock-gambling are
the most hopelessly and forever dulled and
deadened to pleasurable refinements.

We ask of our friends for this subject ear-
nest consideration. Of mothers and wives
we ask influence to keep their sons and hus-
bands from the first step to the stock-gam-
bling. Of all good citizens we ask efforts for
Legislative enactments to put a stop to an
evil which, for demoralizing effect, is not sur-
passed by any upon the statute-books. We ask
of the stock-gamblers themselves to look
candidly at their calling, and, say honestly,
that if we do not call it by its right name, and
describe its moral effect in faithful language?
If they take out counsel they will be better
men.

MERCANTILE EDUCATION.

Let us inquire how far those who have
entered upon the life of a merchant have educated
themselves for their calling, and fitted
themselves for the work they are expected to
perform. Would that the truth were more
agreeable to state than we find it to be in this
case! Generally speaking, merchants have
not that large cultivation we should expect
them to possess, or that fund of information
which a profession comprehending interests
so extensive ought to imply. The theory of
the Pennsylvania Dutchman seems to be
widely adopted. The "old Berks" style of
education, extending as far as calculations of
compound interest, and including the myster-
ies of addition, subtraction, and multiplication,
is too much in vogue.

Few of our merchants feel competent to
take an active part in public affairs; and they
therefore hold back, leaving the field to
lawyers and others of more liberal education,
even when there are matters at stake which
merchandise interests are deeply involved. How
often have we been compelled to regret the
absence of business men from meetings convened
to discuss affairs relating to the trade of
the city, or suffered chagrin at seeing the
management of such conventions left to those
who cannot be expected to feel as deep an
interest in the subject as the mercantile class,
who keep aloof! There can be but one cause
for the backwardness so frequently and as
painfully displayed—the want of that kind of
education that will give the merchant a full
conception of his importance in society and
his influence upon the destinies of mankind.

The establishment of libraries in our prin-
cipal maritime cities, and the devotion of some
degree of attention to literary pursuits, have
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this country conscious of its defects than to
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much avail, for the reason that the themes are
not chosen with an adaptation to the audience,
and there is an absence of solid fact, for which,
to the practical man, no trope, or figure, or
rounded period can compensate.

Oysters placed in aquaria keep them free
from the spores of sea-weeds.

The Newport (Rhode Island) News complains
of the accession sentiment at that place. On
the 4th ult. the rebel cockade is prominently
displayed every day by women who are
loud-mouthed in their denunciation of the
northern people and the Union army. In the parlors
these degraded females give expression to sentiments
that no respectable woman will entertain,
while the secession brawlers keep gentlemen
away from the clubs.

The men are all incomplete as regards the
manners of the Virginian, the Kerevan,
Ker-Romah, etc., as indeed is evident if they are
compared with Mr. Tristram's route.

This game is played now. If you have any confidence
in your ability to drill chilled iron or any confidence in
Evans & Watson's heat Bank 8% as compared with
Lillian's, to withstand the blower, or any confidence in
Evans & Watson's Merchantile Bank 8%, as compared with
Lillian's, to stand fire you have the opportunity to make
it a success. You have just sold the Seventh National
Bank of Philadelphia, for \$100,000. Bank
stock, to the Bank that you probably had a
better protection against the blower than Lillian's, and
charging a much higher price for it. You have already
made the challenge to test the Bank in the Corn Exchange
Bank, and stated your own terms of engagement.

We now make the following proposition:—That you
and I, as partners, will go into the Corn Exchange
Bank, and stand fire with the blower, or any confidence
in Evans & Watson's Merchantile Bank 8%, as compared with
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